

And what are we doing about it? Nothing. Every day innocent kids are victimized on peer-to-peer file-trading software and our inaction allows them to walk right into the trap set by sexual predators. The time to act has come.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor my bill, H.R. 2885, so that we can move forward in protecting our kids online.

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO PRESIDENT JOSE MARIA AZNAR

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to again encourage my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 2131, a resolution that will bestow President of the Government of Spain, Jose Maria Aznar, with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Shortly after the September 11 attacks on the United States, President Aznar made the following comment: "Our battle is a battle for the same ideas, for the same freedoms, for the same society and civilizations, and we will share all those efforts as long as it is necessary."

President Aznar of Spain has stood by the United States and, despite heavy political pressure, has never wavered from his staunch commitment to the ideals of freedom, liberty and democracy.

I urge my fellow Members to join me and over 100 cosponsors of H.R. 2131, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to President Aznar. Join us in honoring a man who is a great leader in global democracy, a great leader in the war on terrorism, a notable ally of the United States, and a champion of freedom.

IN OPPOSITION TO LATEST NEW GOVERNMENT ENTITLEMENT

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I came to the House floor to announce my opposition to the largest new entitlement since 1965, the Medicare prescription drug bill that we will consider this week. As my voice has weakened, strong voices in opposition have emerged, including the venerable Heritage Foundation which has been a beacon of limited government for over three decades. And today, the editorial page of the Wall Street Journal in a piece entitled "Entitlements Are Forever" makes a powerful case that Congress should reconsider before we create this massive new government entitlement. The Wall Street Journal says the GOP's Medicare bill trades certain spending for speculative reform. The bottom line is that the bill would add a universal drug entitlement to a

largely unreformed Medicare program and warns of fiscal disaster. They conclude that Republicans are offering the certainty of trillions in new entitlements in return for a mere promise of future reform and that is too expensive a gamble for principled conservatives to support.

With my very last breath, I would say, "I agree." Oppose the Medicare prescription drug entitlement.

HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the conference report for H.R. 1, an historic bill that will include the creation of health savings accounts, a breakthrough program that gives control back to patients. The voluntary health savings accounts provide care that is affordable, flexible and portable. They restore the doctor-patient relationship, allowing Americans the freedom to choose their own doctor and their own care. Also, contributions, earnings and medical payments from these accounts are all tax-free.

Health savings accounts will lower health insurance costs for millions of Americans and allow for price competition of doctor and hospital services. Moreover, these accounts stay with a person throughout their lives as they are portable from one job to the other. They also can be used during retirement to pay for retiree health care, Medicare expenses and prescription drugs.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to support health savings accounts by voting in favor of H.R. 1 and give health care freedom to millions of Americans.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. We will not forget September 11.

IN HONOR OF RECENT BRONZE STAR RECIPIENTS

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the honor of handing out Bronze Star Medals to 58 World War II veterans from the Third District of Arkansas. These veterans did not previously receive their medals because of an oversight when they returned home after the war.

The Bronze Star is awarded to World War II veterans who earned the Combat Infantry Badge or the Combat Medical Badge. The award of these badges is considered as a citation in orders of exemplary conduct in ground combat against an armed enemy.

The hard work of the Northwest Arkansas Veterans Task Force who brought this oversight to my attention made this ceremony a reality. They are

constantly looking out for veterans in our community, and their commitment to our veterans ought to be commended.

Mr. Speaker, each one of these veterans has a story to tell. Theirs is a special generation, the greatest generation, and we all owe them a debt of gratitude.

IN SUPPORT OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON MEDICARE MODERNIZATION BILL

(Mr. SULLIVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the conference committee report on the Medicare prescription drug coverage bill. This long-awaited legislation will provide a tangible, real and meaningful benefit to American seniors.

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Senior Americans are tired of the talk. It is time for action. This bill will put a drug discount card in their hands in May, 2004; and it will help them save between 15 and 25 percent right off the bat. It also provides structure for Medicare. It includes an affordable deductible and catastrophic coverage, in responsible manner, to help the neediest seniors. Those who currently have prescription drug coverage can keep their coverage because this plan is voluntary. This is reasonable legislation that will not only improve and prolong lives of our seniors but will do the same for the Medicare program.

Provisions for reimportation are in this legislation, ensuring safety and accountability. And it also includes an update for oncology drugs that is critical to cancer patients nationwide.

In conclusion, I would remind my colleagues that this bill provides structure; helps seniors get the prescription drugs they need when they need them by putting a discount card in their hands; is voluntary; and is tangible. It ensures accountability for reimportation and, more importantly, makes Members accountable to their constituents. I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 1.

PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, the President gave an amazing speech yesterday in England, and everyone should read it. Consistent with that speech, I would now ask the administration to appoint a special envoy to the Middle East to focus like a laser beam on bringing peace to the Middle East.

Envoys for peace have succeeded in the past. Senator Mitchell succeeded in Ireland. Senator Danforth has helped push the peace in Sudan. Three people